

[a drive mechanism coupled to said folding ramp for raising and lowering the ramp;]

[wherein] said drive mechanism is located beneath the floor of the minivan.

2 (Amended). The minivan as set forth in claim 1 wherein said drive mechanism includes:

[an electric motor having a rotor shaft;]

a reduction gear having an input coupled to the rotor shaft and having an output shaft;

a drive shaft coupled to said output shaft[;]

3 (Amended). The minivan as set forth in claim 2 wherein said drive shaft includes at least one lever arm attached to said shaft and coupled to said folding ramp for rotating the ramp about said hinge.

4. The minivan as set forth in claim 2 and further including a position sensing switch coupled to said drive shaft for interrupting power to said electric motor at a predetermined position of said ramp when the ramp is being extended.

5 (Amended). The minivan as set forth in claim 4, wherein said drive shaft can drive said motor and further including

a heat dissipating load;

a braking switch for switching current from said motor to said heat dissipating load, thereby [means for] dynamically braking the folding ramp during extension.

6. The minivan as set forth in claim 2 wherein said drive shaft is supported by at least two sets of bearings.

7 (Amended). The minivan as set forth in claim 2, wherein said drive shaft can drive said motor and further including

a heat dissipating load;

a braking switch for switching current from said motor to said heat dissipating load, thereby [means for] dynamically braking the folding ramp [during extension].